

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

- 1 1. (Previously Amended) A microwave communication network that overlays a  
2 public switched telephone network (PSTN) comprising:  
3 a plurality of microwave transceivers forming a microwave network which over-  
4 lays said public switched telephone network, said transceivers being geographically lo-  
5 cated so as to provide a wireless interoffice facility (IOF) for carrying all types of traffic  
6 normally carried by the PSTN between two or more central offices, tandem switches or  
7 other premises controlled by an incumbent local exchange carrier (ILEC).
- 1 2. (Original) The microwave communication network as in claim 1 wherein one or  
2 more of said microwave transceivers is located proximate to one or more of said central  
3 offices, tandem switches or other premises.
- 1 3. (Original) The microwave communication network as in claim 1 wherein said  
2 ILEC provides insufficient wireline bandwidth between two or more of said central of-  
3 fices, tandem switches or other premises, and said microwave network provides wireless  
4 bandwidth as an alternative communication path.
- 1 4. (Original) The microwave communication network as in claim 1 wherein said  
2 wireless IOF provides redundancy to said public switched telephone network.
- 1 5. (Original) The microwave communication network as in claim 1 wherein said  
2 wireless IOF provides bandwidth at a lower cost than said public switched telephone  
3 network.
- 1 6. (Original) The microwave communication network as in claim 1 wherein said  
2 wireless IOF provides service which is complementary to that provided by said public  
3 switched telephone network.

- 1 7. (Previously Amended) A method of providing wireless bandwidth in a micro-  
2 wave network which overlays a public switched telephone network (PSTN) comprising  
3 the steps of:
- 4 (1) forming a microwave network from a plurality of microwave transceivers,  
5 said microwave network overlaying said public switched telephone network;
- 6 (2) geographically arranging said transceivers so as to provide wireless inter-  
7 office facility (IOF) for carrying all types of traffic normally carried by the PSTN be-  
8 tween two or more central offices, tandem switches or other premises controlled by an  
9 incumbent local exchange carrier (ILEC).
- 1 8. (Previously Amended) A microwave communication network that overlays a  
2 public switched telephone network (PSTN) comprising:
- 3 a plurality of microwave transceivers forming a microwave network which over-  
4 lays said public switched telephone network, said transceivers being geographically lo-  
5 cated so as to provide a wireless interoffice facility (IOF) for carrying all types of traffic  
6 normally carried by the PSTN between one or more central offices, tandem switches or  
7 other premises controlled by an incumbent local exchange carrier (ILEC) and one or  
8 more central offices, tandem switches or other premises controlled by a common carrier  
9 other than said ILEC.
- 1 9. (Original) The microwave communication network as in claim 8 wherein one or  
2 more of said microwave transceivers is located proximate to one or more of said central  
3 offices, tandem switches or other premises.
- 1 10. (Original) The microwave communication network as in claim 8 wherein said  
2 ILEC provides insufficient wireline bandwidth between two or more of its central offices,  
3 tandem switches or other premises, and said microwave network provides wireless band-  
4 width as an alternative communication path.

1 11. (Original) The microwave communication network as in claim 8 wherein said  
2 wireless IOF provides redundancy to said public switched telephone network.

1 12. (Original) The microwave communication network as in claim 8 wherein said  
2 wireless IOF provides bandwidth at a lower cost than said public switched telephone  
3 network.

1 13. (Original) The microwave communication network as in claim 8 wherein said  
2 wireless IOF provides service which is complementary to that provided by said public  
3 switched telephone network.

1 14. (Previously Amended) A method of providing wireless bandwidth in a micro-  
2 wave network which overlays a public switched telephone network (PSTN) comprising  
3 the steps of:

4 (1) forming a microwave network from a plurality of microwave transceivers,  
5 said microwave network overlaying said public switched telephone network;

6 (2) geographically arranging said transceivers so as to provide wireless inter-  
7 office facility (IOF) for carrying all types of traffic normally carried by the PSTN be-  
8 tween one or more central offices, tandem switches or other premises controlled by an  
9 incumbent local exchange carrier (ILEC) and one or more central offices, tandem  
10 switches or other premises controlled by a common carrier other than said ILEC.